

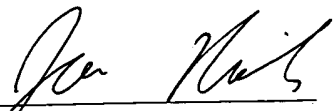
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Aiken comprises of at lease three separate components; the tubular member and two thin closure discs or membranes. Applicant's invention comprises of only a one piece housing because the ends are permanently sealed and not a separate rupturable seal and the scores are formed on the outer surface of the housing without any additional components. There is a high likelihood of leaking from the Aiken's housing due to its soft flexible body and rupturable thin closure disc or membrane. The housing as disclosed by Aiken may be ruptured unintentionally during transporting. The housing may also leak its contents if the closure disc or membrane is not securely attached to the housing. Applicant's invention cannot be ruptured because its ends are permanently sealed. Applicant's invention also will not leak its contents because its ends are permanently sealed. There is no possibility of a closure disc or membrane not being securely attached to the housing causing the housing to leak its contents as in Aiken. Furthermore, it is much quicker and cheaper to manufacture Applicant's invention than it is to fabricate the invention disclosed in Aiken due to Applicant's single component leak-proof design.

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Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the patent application as amended be allowed.

April 14, 2002


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